

**City of Lincoln
Cable TV Advisory Board
Meeting Minutes – April 25, 2013**

Members Present: Ed Hoffman, Linda Jewson, Jim Johnson, Laurie Thomas Lee, Dara Troutman

City Staff: Steve Huggenberger, Diane Gonzolas, Melissa Fuller, Bill Luxford

Representatives of Time Warner Cable: Ann Teget, Jamie Wenz

Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 4:10 p.m. by chair Ed Hoffman. Hoffman stated that our bylaws define a quorum as one half of the currently appointed members; due to board vacancies, there are only seven currently appointed members of the board, so a quorum is four people. Hoffman declared a quorum. Hoffman said that we have reminded the Mayor's office that our board is short due to vacancies; they are looking into possible appointments.

Meet & Greet with Melissa Fuller, 10 Health

We started with a meet & greet of Melissa Fuller, the coordinator of 10 Health (the new incarnation of Channel 10). Fuller said that the dynamics have changed; in the beginning the channel had to do a lot of reaching out into the health community to try to establish a health channel; now the health community is reaching out to them. The City is also working on creating its own programming on the channel. Among other things there is a show called "Bike Lincs" which promotes bicycle awareness and "Lincoln Walks" sponsored by the Partnership for a Healthy Lincoln. Michelle Welch from LPS is partnering with them on some programming as well. They are trying to get some diversity on 10Health; they filmed a show with Larry Williams at the Malone Center; they are filming a show with the String Beans to try and get children involved.

Troutman asked if there are any needs assessments that can be used to indicate what the channels needs are. Gonzolas said yes; 10 Health was started with a grant from the Community Health Endowment, and part of the grant included a needs assessment.

Troutman asked if organizations know that there is a TV channel that they can use. Fuller said yes, the word is getting out.

Hoffman said that as part of our meeting today he wants to talk about the City website; he would appreciate any advice that Fuller or Gonzolas has about getting out the information about Channel 10. Gonzolas said that we can link to the City's site for 10 Health and the the Youtube section for 10HealthLincoln. Fuller said that she will get us something for the board's website.

Minutes from February meeting

Minutes from the meeting of February 28, 2013 were read. Troutman moved approval, Jewson seconded, minutes approved as read.

New Business

Review of Bylaws

Staff will consider possible changes needed in bylaws; they will bring recommendations to the board for possible action. Troutman asked if there are Standing Rules; Gonzolas said no.

Website Update

The City's website is currently undergoing changes; Hoffman said that there are a lot of changes needed on our Board website as well. Troutman asked if it's within the Board's purview to dictate what is on the site or if that should be done staff. Hoffman said that there is some outdated information, including lists of Board members who are no longer on the board. Gonzolas said that the staff is not necessarily asking for design, just input on content. Gonzolas said that by the next board meeting we will have a design to review.

Old Business

New Board Members

Hoffman stated that if we have ideas of potential board members, we should suggest to them that they should apply; there is a City Advisory Board application on the Mayor's website.

Rules for Access Channels

Troutman asked if we should place a motion on the floor; Hoffman indicated that he wants to start with a discussion of the proposed changes, followed possibly by a motion.

Gonzolas asked Huggenberger to indicate what the process would be if the rules changes are adopted by the Board. Huggenberger said that proposed changes would be forwarded to the Lincoln City Council. Council will either vote them up or down; if they vote them down then they'll be sent back to the Cable Board. Chapters One and Three are subject to City approval; Chapter Two is governed by the Public Access Coordinator and Time Warner Cable (TWC) so is not subject to City approval.

Board first discussed the changes in Chapter One.

Gonzolas distributed a draft copy of the rules that had been discussed by the Rules Subcommittee.

With regard to section 1.2 (i), Lee asked if that meant that the City would not allow organizations to air shows if they weren't a 501(c)3 organization; Huggenberger said yes.

Teget asked if the Rules Committee had discussed removing the word "primary" from 1.2(h); Hoffman indicated that the committee had discussed it and left it in there for this draft; the feeling is that a program broadcast on one of the government channels should not promote an activity but could be used to make people aware of it. Teget asked whether if a group like Pink comes to the Pinnacle Bank Arena that would be considered a commercial activity. She thinks that advertising this event on a government channel would be promotion of a commercial enterprise, and that TWC didn't envision this kind of activity when they set up the channels. She asks who decides what is "primary." Huggenberger said that this is a hard question; for instance, consider Lincoln Electric System. They aren't trying to make money but they need to not lose money or the City's electric system would fail. Teget asked if sale of event tickets would be commercial; Huggenberger and Troutman agreed that it would be, and that we therefore can't do that.

Other changes in Chapter One were minor; heading change for Section 5, and minor changes in Section 7.

Board next discussed the changes in Chapter Three.

In section 1.2(f) the Rules Committee had added "attractions and activities."

In section 2.2 the Rules Committee had changed the text to read "... any nonprofit, parochial or home school or any college or university ..." Teget said that TWC would like the verbiage changed to "public or private"; they don't feel that home schools should be able to use the educational access channel. Gonzolas said that there are restrictions on religious programming. Huggenberger said that there are a lot of schools that work together in a cooperative effort; there is no requirement that they be accredited. There was a question of whether a home school roundtable would be allowed; Huggenberger said that it would not under the current rules but under the proposed rules it would be allowed. Hoffman asked how Board members feel about allowing home schools on the channel. Troutman asked Teget what problem TWC has with including home schools. Teget said that this might open it up to individuals instead of just schools. Lee wanted to change "made available to ..." to "made available for use by ..." Teget wanted the text to be replaced with "public, private, and parochial I..." After discussion the Board changed the phrase to "The educational access channel shall be made available for use by any school, college or university located within the City franchise area of Lincoln."

Teget said that TWC thinks section 3.2(b) should be removed because it's commercial. Hoffman said that information is different from promotion; he doesn't think it's proven to be a negative – look what's going on in the Haymarket. Hoffman asked if any Board member had a problem with 3.2 as worded in the document. Teget asked if we remove (b) what would be the problem; Hoffman says it's a clarification that this type of program would be allowed. Troutman didn't think we should itemize the locations at which we would allow this type of information. She suggested replacing the itemized list with "connected with a government owned event facility" instead. Hoffman said that he wants to provide information about government facilities; Teget said that TWC is not trying to stifle the growth of Lincoln but wants to make sure that the channel doesn't get used for commercial sales. Troutman thinks that the Board needs to say that this is a permissible use. After discussion, we kept 3.2 but modified the wording to "... connected with the Lincoln Convention & Visitors' Bureau, Pershing Center, Pinnacle Bank Arena, and any other government-owned facilities ..."

Hoffman asked for a motion. We considered the two chapters separately.

Troutman moved approval of Chapter One as amended, Jewson seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

Johnson moved approval of Chapter Three as amended, Lee seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

Reports from Time Warner Cable

Wenz submitted a written report. They have put in a new server, and there are some server incompatibilities at the present time. He hopes it won't be noticeable.

Teget says that a "must-carry" channel is coming to Lincoln so they will have to do some shuffling of channels. TWC is at capacity on the lower tier. Hoffman asked if the PEG channels need to be on the lower tier; Huggenberger said yes.

Reports from the City

Gonzolas will email the City's report.

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned; next meeting scheduled for July 25, 2013, at the City County Building.

Respectfully submitted,
Jim Johnson, secretary